

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 CU-05 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 301530Z SEPT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4045

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USUN NEW YORK 869

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 00589

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS : PINS,SF

SUBJ :AFTERMATH OF PRO-FRELIMO RALLIES

REF :A)DURBAN 347; B) CAPE TOWN 585; C) CAPE TOWN 443

1. AS AFTERMATH OF PRO-FRELIMO RALLIES IN DURBAN AND PIETERSBURG (REF A), SOUTH AFRICA SECURITY BRANCH POLICE RAIDED OFFICES OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (SASO) AND BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC). IN RAIDS WHICH BEGAN ON SEPT 25, MORE THAN 40 MEMBERS OF THE TWO GROUPS HAVE BEEN DETAINED. PRESS REPORTED ON SEPT 29 THAT RAIDS WERE CONTINUING AND THAT ALL LEAVE FOR SECURITY BRANCH OFFICERS HAD BEEN CANCELLED.

2. TWELVE PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR CONTRAVENING RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES AMENDMENT ACT BY ATTENDING DURBAN RALLY HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF OFFICE-HOLDERS OF SASO AND BPC HAVE BEEN DETAINED UNDER TERMS OF SECTION 22 OF ACT 62 OF 1966 (FOURTEEN-DAY DETENTION). LAW. AMONG THEN ARE SASO SECRETARY-
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GENERAL MUNTU MYEZE, BPC CHAIRMAN REV.'CASTRO'MAYATULE, AND
LINDELWE MABANDLA, HEAD OF THE BLACK ALLIED WORKERS' UNION.

3. ARREST OF DAILY NEWS EDITOR O'MALLEY (REF B) HAS BEEN ALMOST
UNANIMOUSLY CRITIZED BY BOTH ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS PRESS.
MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER HAS ADMITTED THAT ARTICLE WHICH
HE READ IN PARLIAMENT AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ORDERING ARREST WAS
NOT FROM THE DAILY NEWS, BUT FROM A CAPE TOWN PAPER. DAILY
NEWS STORY ON RALLY DID NOT CONTAIN TIME OR PLACE OF MEETING,
BUT KRUGER MAINTAINS THAT ARREST OF EDITOR WAS NEVERTHELESS
JUSTIFIED UNDER TERMS OF RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES AMENDMENT ACT.

4. COMMENT: WIDESPREAD ARRESTS AND DETENTION OF SASO AND BPC
MEMBERS MAY FORESHADOW ACTION AGAINST THE ORGANIZATIONS
THEMSELVES.

CHIEF OF SECURITY BRANCH TOLD SUNDAY EXPRESS REPORTER THAT
INVESTIGATIONS HAD 'SERIOUS AND WIDESPREAD' IMPLICATIONS.
BOTH SASO AND BPC HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO BE DECLARED AFFECTED
ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOME TIME (REF C).

AND LATEST CONFRONTATION WITH GOVT MAY SUPPLY RATIONALE FOR
SUCH ACTION. AS IN PAST, HOWEVER, GOVT'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO
CHALLENGE FROM AN ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ACTION AGAINST LEADERSHIP,
WITH OBVIOUS AIM OF CRIPPLING GROUP'S EFFECTIVENESS.

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NNN

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